

# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE

## Voting Members:

Brandon J. C. Elefante, Chair; Kymberly Marcos Pine, Vice Chair;  
Ikaika Anderson, Ernest Y. Martin; Trevor Ozawa

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Committee Meeting Held  
July 25, 2017

Honorable Ron Menor  
Chair, City Council  
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Public Health, Safety and Welfare, which considered Resolution 17-189 entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HAWAII BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO ADOPT RULES PROHIBITING ALCOHOL USE AND DISORDERLY BEHAVIOR AT WAIKIKI “FLOATILLA” EVENTS,”

introduced on July 6, 2017, reports as follows:

The purpose of the Resolution is to urge the Hawaii Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board) to adopt rules prohibiting alcohol use and disorderly behavior at Waikiki “floatilla” events.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) Captain John McCarthy testified that HPD treats this annual event as a “special event,” bringing in extra officers to manage the impacts of the event. Impacted agencies include Honolulu Emergency Services Department (HESD) and the Department of Land and Natural Resources’ (DLNR) Conservation and Resources Enforcement Division. All the agencies meet prior to the event to plan strategies in order to respond to the “floatilla” event effectively. The event

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## CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ADOPTED ON

AUG 09 2017

COMMITTEE REPORT NO.

287

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is complicated by the fact that no permit is required for this type of event. Further, there is no promoter or "organizing group" to work with prior to the event, since it is announced through social media and coordinated among friends on social media channels. The costs to the HPD was \$12,000 including overtime for officers. Captain McCarthy stated that they will continue to proactively address the event issues in coordination with all the affected agencies.

The focus of the above mentioned agencies has been the safety of the participants and the public, and medical assistance for those who may become injured during the "floatilla" event. Enforcement efforts were undertaken and criminal investigations were opened, but there was little cooperation among participants.

Councilmember Ozawa suggested that the DLNR Board consider adopting rules similar to those rules adopted for the Kaneohe Bay Sandbar to address safety and enforcement issues created by the Waikiki "floatilla" event. Councilmember Ozawa stated that he would like to see increased enforcement to protect the lives and safety of Waikiki "floatilla" attendees and the public and would like the impacted agencies to explore strategies and options to change behaviors.

Department of Land and Natural Resources Conservation Resources Enforcement Division Chief Robert Farrell testified that the impacted agencies have worked together every year to adapt to new elements of the event and to find solutions to new issues that arise each year. Additional staff are assigned from DLNR each year but it is a strain on departmental resources. Mr. Farrell indicated that if the Board considered similar rules to those at the Kaneohe Bay Sandbar, they would have to consider possible impacts on other permitted businesses, and how such rules might overlay or conflict with existing laws/rules and the effectiveness of the enforcement options.

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Honolulu Emergency Services Department Director James Howe Jr. testified that this event has evolved into an annual event and is growing in scope. Extra personnel were assigned, but the department did not have the extra ambulances that were necessary at the event which resulted in the department reassigning ambulances that were assigned elsewhere. Director Howe also explained that these kind of events have happened all over the island at various levels of attendance and intensity. The costs to the department included \$4,400 for overtime and extended service hours.

Your Committee received testimony from one individual in support of the Resolution.

Your Committee received two written testimonies in support and one in opposition of the Resolution.

Your Committee on Public Health, Safety and Welfare is in accord with the intent and purpose of Resolution 17-189 and recommends its adoption. (Ayes: Elefante, Martin, Ozawa, Pine – 4; Noes: None; Excused: Anderson - 1.)

Respectfully submitted,



Committee Chair

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